

Message Text

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16

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 OMB-01

IO-14 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 INR-10

CIAE-00 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /177 W

----- 079272

P R 010935Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5182

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI

JCS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3068

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE SITUATION

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE RICE SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION SITUATION IN
PHNOM PENH FOR THE ONE-WEEK PERIOD FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24.

ROUTES 4 AND 5 ARE OMITTED SINCE BOTH WERE CLOSED DURING
THE REPORTING PERIOD.

FEB. 18 FEB. 19 FEB.20 FEB. 21

BEGINNING STOCK 26,389.2 30,633.0 29,759.1 29,032.2

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MEKONG 5,199.0 - - -

TOTAL AVAILABLE	31,588.2	30,633.0	29,759.1	29,032.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	933.6	863.5	711.5	815.3
BALANCE	30,654.6	29,769.5	29,047.6	28,216.9
ADJUSTMENT	(-) 21.6	(-) 10.4	(-) 15.4	(-) 17.7
BALANCE	30,633.0	29,759.1	29,032.2	28,199.2

FEB. 22 FEB. 23 FEB. 24

BEGINNING STOCK	28,199.2	29,147.2	28,507.7
MEKONG	1,625.2	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	29,824.4	29,147.2	28,507.7
LESS DISTRIBUTION	592.1	635.1	-
BALANCE	29,232.3	28,512.1	28,507.7
ADJUSTMENT	(-) 85.1	(-) 4.4	-
BALANCE	29,147.2	28,507.7	-

2. STOCK POSITION. AT COB FEBRUARY 24 RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH
WERE 26,882 M/T OR 41.3 DAYS SUPPLY AT 650/MT PER DAY.

3. DISTRIBUTION. AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION DURING THIS PERIOD
WAS 650.1 M/T. AVERAGE FOR FEBRUARY THUS FAR IS 550.7 M/T.

4. ARRIVALS. ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED ON FEBRUARY 18 WITH 5,199
M/T. THE NEXT CONVOY IS EXPECTED ON THE 28TH. IF PRESENT SCHE-
DULES HOLD, THERE WILL BE 40,000 M/T OF RICE ARRIVING IN PHNOM
PENH BY THE END OF MARCH.

5. THE FLUCTUATION IN DISTRIBUTION WHICH IS EVIDENT IN RECENT
REPORTS IN THIS SERIES MAY BE PARTIALLY EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT
NORMAL DISTRIBUTION - AND PAYMENT - WERE APPARENTLY INTERRUPTED
BY THE FAILURE OF THE KHANDS TO FORWARD THEIR RICE RECEIPTS TO THE
NEXT HIGHER ECHELON IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - THE ETAT-MAJOR
MIXTE DE RAVITAILLEMENT (EMMR), THUS BLOCKING THE FLOW OF FUNDS
AND CAUSING SHARP CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RICE PURCHASED BY THE
CITIZENS. THE KHANDS HAD ACTUALLY HELD OVER 130 MILLION RIELS AS
OF JANUARY 31, 1974, THUS EFFECTIVELY BLOCKING THE FLOW OF
RICE TO THE POPULATION. THIS SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN MET BY TWO
RESPONSES ON THE PART OF THE NATIONAL RICE COMMITTEE:

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- A) PURCHASES OF RICE MAY BYPASS THE KHANDS AND GO DIRECTLY
TO THE EMMR AND
- B) THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A DECREE WHICH REPLACES THE
EXISTING SYSTEM OF RICE DISTRIBUTION AND PLACES CONTROL IN THE
HANDS OF OFFINACO, FORMERLY AN OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND NOW, BY THE SAME DECREE, MOVED TO THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE.

IN ADDITION, THE KHANDS ARE NOW BEING FORCED TO RELEASE ALL FUNDS IMPROPERLY HELD.

6. THE MOVEMENT OF 1000 TONS OF RICE FROM BATTAMBANG TO PHNOM PENH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AS SOON AS AGREEMENTS CAN BE REACHED ON MEANS AND COST OF A RIVER CONVOY FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG TO PHNOM PENH. IF ESTABLISHED, THIS ROUTE COULD SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT SUPPLY LINE FOR RICE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE TRANSIT THAILAND AT CONSIDERABLE COST.

7. AIR LIFTS OF RICE FROM PHNOM PENH TO THE PROVINCES HAVE BEEN INCREASED DUE TO A STEADILY INCREASING NUMBER OF REFUGEES FLEEING COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS. POPULATION IN KOMPONG THOM, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS PROBABLY DOUBLED IN THE PAST MONTH AND THE AIR LIFT HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 200 TO 400 M/T PER MONTH.

ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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